

# DELIGHTING GOD

*Understanding What Pleases Him*



"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord . "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.' Isaiah 55:8-9

When we love someone, one of the things we try and understand is their likes and dislikes: what does it take to bring joy to that person and what puts the person off. As we find these things out, we then put in effort to do them, because genuinely want to be part of their lives and want to have a good relationship with them. Interestingly when it comes to God, we tend to think of Him in terms of what we would like and how we function. However, he has made it very clear that His ways are very different from our ways.

If God's ways are different, then the question we would ask ourselves is: what does it take to please God? Otherwise, we run the risk of offending Him, and not even knowing that's what we are doing, or spending a lot of energy on things that He doesn't count as important. The good thing is as we spend time in His word, we receive clarity on the answer to this and so much more. This series, we are digging into the Word of God to understand what it takes to delight God and we pray the Holy Spirit will grant us clarity as we embark on this journey.



## Day 1 Reverence of God

“No, the Lord’s delight is in those who fear him, those who put their hope in his unfailing love.” Psalms 147:11 NLT

Sometimes we need to remind ourselves that the Lord we are talking to is not our peer in any way. He is the creator of all things seen and unseen. The one who orchestrated the seasons of life and rules in the affairs of men. The Ancient of Days, the I Am that I Am, the King of kings and the Lord of lords. That we have access to Him is a privilege that we should not take lightly.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6

“For the Lord your God is a consuming fire...” Deuteronomy 4:24

God’s love is unfailing and because of His love we have the opportunity of unlimited access through the blood of Jesus and sometimes we get familiar in the sense that we begin to take this access for granted. There may be times God will give us an instruction, but we postpone doing it because we have made other things a priority. When we do so we are telling God two things: one is that the thing we have chosen to do is more important to us than Him and secondly that thing is what we have really put our hope in and not Him.

And the interesting thing is we may also even ask God to bless that activity even though we ignored Him for it. This doesn’t please God in any way. Yes, God may show us mercy out of His love for us, but it doesn’t mean He is pleased it’s us. God does not expect us to be 100% perfect all the time, but there’s a huge difference between making an effort to find out what pleases Him and asking for His help to do it compared to expecting Him to align with us and do what we want because we’re leveraging on His love for us.

**Prayer:** Lord forgive me for the times I’ve made other things more important than You. Help me not to depend on myself or on others, but to rely on You. I ask for the grace not to take access to You for granted and that You help me on this journey of living a life that pleases You.

## Day 2

### Faith

'But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.' Hebrews 11:6

Whatever we have faith in is what we put our trust in, be it ourselves, other people, money, etc. Faith in God is acknowledging who He is and what He capable of. When we put our faith in God's character, His word, His power, what we are saying is that we don't have all the answers and may not have the full picture yet, but we trust that God is who He says He is and that He will do what He has promised to do, whether we understand it or not.

'...Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?' Luke 18:8

Jesus asked an interesting question when after sharing the parable of the widow who persisted until she got justice from the unjust judge, He asked if He will find faith on the earth. Will people still believe and trust God in spite of whatever may be going on around them and if they do not get the answer they want immediately?

Faith is trusting God without insisting that He gives us a full-blown explanation first. When we look at the Hebrews 11 "Faith Hall of fame" we see references to people who journeyed with God through some fairly challenging times and still held on to their trust in Him. They weren't perfect and made mistakes but ultimately came to the understanding that the best decision they could make was to align with God and His charge/promises no matter how long it took.

"But those who wish to boast should boast in this alone: that they truly know me and understand that I am the Lord who demonstrates unfailing love and who brings justice and righteousness to the earth, and that I delight in these things. I, the Lord, have spoken!" Jeremiah 9:24 NLT

Real faith will be absolutely impossible if we do not have a relationship with God, and the closer we get to Him the more we can trust Him because we know who He is, what moves Him and how far He is willing to go for us. Our faith therefore is founded on God's already proven track record in the lives of others and in our lives.

**Prayer:** Holy Spirit, please give me a revelation of who God is so I can understand His ways and trust Him more so my faith is built on a solid foundation.

### Day 3 Honesty

Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord, but those who deal truthfully are His delight.  
Proverbs 12:22

One of the things that delights God is honesty – being truthful in our dealings with Him and with one another. In our interactions with others, it may make us feel better to categorize lies into “small/white” lies – meaning lies that we do not believe will have significant consequence – and bigger lies. However from God’s perspective lies are simply lies, He doesn’t put them into categories or grades.

'But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.' For whatever is more than these is from the evil one.' Matthew 5:37

The danger with telling ourselves it is okay to tell “small” lies is that by doing so we are gradually eroding our conscience, opening ourselves up to deeper issues and reducing our ability to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Clearly none of these will be pleasing to God. But when we are honest with ourselves and with others, we give God room to re-shape and help us.

'Behold, You desire truth in the innermost being...' Psalms 51:6

Let me be weighed on honest scales, That God may know my integrity. Job 31:6

Truth comes from the heart and God is very concerned about the state of our hearts. When we determine to live a life of honesty not just in words but in actions, we won’t make excuses for ourselves, rather we can go to God in all humility and admit where we have gone wrong and ask Him for help where we have issues. It’s not about being perfect, but about being a person who genuinely wants to please God and is willing to make whatever adjustments necessary to be a person He can trust. It is difficult for people to trust a person who has no issues telling lies and the same is true with God. It doesn’t mean He will love us any less, but there is a limit to which we can get close to Him and certainly will not live a life that pleases Him if we live dishonestly.

**Prayer:** Lord, I want to be a person who deals truthfully. Help me realize how important honesty is to you and please give me a tender conscience so I don’t get comfortable with telling lies in my words or actions.

## Day 4 Obedience

“But Samuel replied, “What is more pleasing to the Lord: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to his voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice...” 1 Samuel 15:22  
NLT

For context, the Lord had given Saul specific instructions concerning a battle with the Amalekites to destroy everything, but Saul obeyed partially because he wanted to please his people. Rather than immediately admit his wrong doing when he was confronted by Samuel, Saul first tried to justify his actions because he had executed a large part of the instruction, yet God was displeased with him. This tells us that from God’s perspective, partial obedience is disobedience. Secondly, when we disobey we shouldn’t try and justify ourselves. Perhaps someone gets an instruction not to engage in a particular business, yet the person goes ahead justifying that the proceeds of the business can be given to charity etc to please God. Even if such a person were to give 100% of the proceeds away, God would still not be pleased with that person or their giving because that person shouldn’t have gone into the business in the first place. This is how God reasons.

“If you love me, obey my commandments.” John 14:15

“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” 1 John 1:9

Obedience is a big deal to the Lord as this is how we demonstrate to Him that we love Him. His commandments are the instructions we see in the Bible and what He tells us specifically as we walk with Him. Anytime we disobey, we are in essence saying that we do not love Him. Again God doesn’t expect us to be perfect and He knows mistakes will happen. But rather than justify ourselves, He expects that when we realise we’ve made a mistake, we immediately confess to Him and ask for His forgive as well as the empowerment to live a life of obedience. The more we do this, the more obedience becomes a part of us.

**Prayer:** Lord thank You for showing me that to You, partial obedience is disobedience. Please forgive me for all the times I’ve disobeyed You. Holy Spirit please empower me to live a life of consistent obedience to the Lord.

## Day 5 A Yielded Life

And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him.” John 8:29

During His earthly ministry Jesus made a very interesting statement: that He ALWAYS pleased God. This should interest us because the life of Jesus is a pattern we would do well to follow since the ultimate goal for every believer is to be like Him. To understand how He was able to do this, we have to study the life of Jesus. Jesus lived a life totally yielded to God, He knew His purpose was linked to what God wanted and made it a point of duty to always stay connected to His Father.

“So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does.” John 5:19 NLT

Jesus understood that He wasn't called to live an ordinary life, and only the Holy Spirit could provide the best template for Him to follow by revealing the thoughts of the Father to Him. Jesus He made sure He stayed connected to the Father to understand how He was supposed to function.

“... We ask God to give you complete knowledge of his will and to give you spiritual wisdom and understanding. Then the way you live will always honor and please the Lord, and your lives will produce every kind of good fruit....” Colossians 1:9-10 NLT

We need the help of the Holy Spirit to reveal God's will in every situation as well as the spiritual wisdom and understanding He gives to work out what He tells us about God's will. This way, the Bible tells us we will always honor and please the Lord. This tells us there's a direct relationship between our revelation of God and our ability to please Him. Expectedly as with every relationship, the better we know a person the better we can relate with them. Likewise the better we know God the more we are able to please Him until we get to the point that like Jesus we can also live a life that continuously pleases Him.

**Prayer:** Lord grant me a spirit of wisdom and of revelation that gives me a deep and personal and intimate insight into the true knowledge of You and Your will per time.



## Day 6 Consistency

'But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.' Daniel 1:8

'Then the other administrators and high officers began searching for some fault in the way Daniel was handling government affairs, but they couldn't find anything to criticize or condemn. He was faithful, always responsible, and completely trustworthy.' Daniel 6:4

Daniel was one of a few men who struck a positive chord with the Lord. One of the things that caused the Lord to be pleased with Daniel was his consistency. Daniel could be counted on by both God and men. We know that men could count on him because he was described as being faithful and trustworthy not just by one person, but by all the kings he worked with.

'Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days.' Daniel 6:10

We know that he could be counted on by God because from the days of his youth Daniel consistently chose loyalty to God above anything else. He had intentionally and consistently maintained an active prayer life and did not let anything deter that. The Bible says Daniel prayed three times a day as was his custom. God delights in people He can trust, who will place a priority on their relationship with Him, regardless of what it may cost them and Daniel was such a person. His prayer life wasn't about fire-fighting to resolve issues or transactionally asking for things. He had developed a relationship with God over time even into his old age. This should bring a question to our hearts: what spiritual custom/discipline have we intentionally develop that will carry us through life?

'Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed.' Mark 1:35

It will not automatically happen if we don't consciously put structures in place to make this a reality. Despite His busy schedule, Jesus consistently made time to pray for extended periods of time. Paul shared his "spiritual fitness" regime in 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 which tells us that he was also intentional about being consistent, and so must we if we are to live a life pleasing to God.

**Prayer:** Lord show me the spiritual disciplines to put in place to live a life of consistently pleasing You.



Thanks for completing the study. We'll love to hear from you, connect with us on:

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[YouTube](#)

**You can also listen to our Podcasts on:**

[Spotify](#)

[Anchor FM](#)

[Google Podcasts](#)

[Apple Podcasts](#)

Or send us an Email: [aheartofwisdom@gmail.com](mailto:aheartofwisdom@gmail.com)

©Aheartofwisdom

